

# Mount Isa City Council News



Power. Smelter. Acid. Water. Enabling infrastructure. Rail. Workforce. It is said that if you prioritise everything, then nothing is a priority, though this is hard when everything is essential. The economy of the whole North West Minerals Province has reached a tipping point, and if appropriate investment is not made, our economy will collapse.

When Council first began our “six pillars” work when the underground copper mine closure was announced, CopperString was an assumption. Proponents felt confident that it would be the long-term power solution to ease energy prices to make their projects



Mayor Peta MacRae

financially viable. Let’s hope that this is still the case and the change in project order will not delay electrification by decades. It is good news, however, that the project is still a priority and that the Queensland Investment Corporation

have become involved, to control costs and get private investment for parts of the project. Glencore has released their Social Transition Plan. It was positive to see Green Gravity and tailings re-processing and re-purposing noted as potential activities that could create jobs in the future. It is also fabulous to see that the Australian Critical Minerals Industrial Precinct is listed as a project to commence.

It was interesting to hear from Steve Minnikin, the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data. He refers to Service NSW, a one-stop shop for all NSW Government services. It is

his ambition to implement this in Queensland, which makes great sense. Putting a project management office lens over the whole of government will hopefully find efficiency and streamline the user experience for all of us that deal with government on a regular basis. At a Council level, we have been working towards integrating our systems. We acknowledge that our feedback processes need to be improved when jobs are closed out or scheduled.

Happy Easter – may you all have a safe and enjoyable break with family and friends.

## Websites Promote Region’s Strengths

Mount Isa City Council has joined 10 other Local Governments in the region to launch the North West Queensland Liveability and Jobs Platform.

This project is a first-of-its-kind project for North West Queensland and creates two interconnected websites: Live North West ([www.livenorthwestqueensland.com.au](http://www.livenorthwestqueensland.com.au)) – a dedicated resource showcasing regional liveability, including education, healthcare, lifestyle opportunities and local services; and Jobs North West ([www.jobsnorthwestqueensland.com.au](http://www.jobsnorthwestqueensland.com.au)) – a comprehensive employment portal that links job seekers with industry and also features a business directory to support local enterprises.

The project was launched in Brisbane on Tuesday, April 2, with North West Queensland Mayors – including Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae – joining the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Jarrod Bleijie.

With guidance from key partner the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC), the platforms were developed by Regional Development Australia Townsville, and North West Queensland, with funding from the Queensland Government.

Cr MacRae said the project is a major step in promoting our region as a prime destination to live and work.

“Mount Isa is a place of opportunity. These websites make it easier for people to see the career, lifestyle, and investment potential waiting for them here,” Cr MacRae said.

All 11 councils across the region – Mount Isa City, Burke Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Cloncurry Shire, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire, Etheridge Shire, Flinders Shire, Mornington Shire, McKinlay Shire, Richmond Shire, and Croydon Shire – each contributed to the project, helping shape the content to reflect their individual communities’ unique strengths and opportunities.

Deputy Premier Bleijie said the initiative was a



strong example of government backing for regional growth.

“These platforms are more than just websites – they are a gateway to new opportunities,” Deputy Premier Bleijie said.

“They provide a comprehensive snapshot of what North West Queensland has to offer, helping connect people with jobs, lifestyle and investment opportunities.

“The Queensland Government is committed to strengthening our regions, and this is a great example of that commitment in action.”

Wayde Chiesa, CEO of RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, said the digital tools mark a milestone in the way the region is promoted to the rest of the country.

“This is a bold step to unlock the region’s full potential,” Mr Chiesa said.

“We’re making it easier for people to picture their

future in North West Queensland, whether that’s a career move, business investment, or a lifestyle change.

“It’s about building a sustainable workforce and helping our communities grow.”

Cr Barry Hughes, Mayor of Etheridge Shire Council and the Chair of NWQROC, said the platforms are a much-needed solution to the region’s workforce and population challenges.

“Attracting and retaining skilled workers is crucial to the long-term success of our communities,” Cr Hughes said.

“These websites wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the Queensland Government and the facilitation of RDA Townsville and North West Queensland.

They give our region a powerful new tool to showcase what’s on offer and bring more workers, families and businesses to the North West.”

## New Megafauna Sign on the Barkly Highway

Have you seen this recently installed sign on the Barkly Highway?

It features two ancient megafauna from the Riversleigh World Heritage Area:

- **Dromornis**, or the “thunder bird”, which lived about 26 million years ago and could weigh up to 250kg; and
- **Diprotodon**, the ancient ancestor of the wombat which lived about 2 million years ago and is thought to be the largest marsupial to have ever walked the Earth.

It can be found on the Barkly Highway, about 11km north of Mount Isa on the way to Camooweal, and aims to capture the attention of travellers arriving from the Northern Territory and the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil site, one of the most significant fossil deposits in the world.

The sign’s creation was thanks to a collaboration between Outback At Isa and local TAFE students.

Outback at Isa provided materials, measurements, and designs to the students, who were responsible for



tracing, cutting, and welding the metal signs.

A second sign, set to be installed soon between Mount Isa and Cloncurry, will depict the Thylacine, showcasing its distinctive stripes and gaping jaw.

Outback at Isa tour guide and Riversleigh fossil enthusiast Alan Rackham said 80 percent of tourists did not know the Mount Isa area had fossils until they visited Outback at Isa.

“This new sign is beautiful, and it’s got to help. We are hoping that someone or an organisation can sponsor more of these signs,” Mr Rackham said.

## Council a Presenting Partner of 2025 Mount Isa Mines Rodeo

Mount Isa City Council is proud to be a presenting partner of the 2025 Mount Isa Mines Rodeo.

At its March Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to provide cash sponsorship of \$66,000, as well as \$47,100 in in-kind support (plus ancillary venue costs), for this year’s event, to be held from August 8 to 10 at Buchanan Park.

“This is a completely new organisation, so I encourage everyone to give the new board a chance and get on board, to make this rodeo better than it’s ever been,” Mayor Peta MacRae said at the Ordinary Meeting.

Councillor Dan Ballard wished the committee all the very best.

“I think the board is very well made up of locally connected people and has a healthy cross-section, and I have every confidence that it’s going to be a huge success,” Cr Ballard said.

Councillor Travis Crowther said the Mount Isa Mines Rodeo’s new board had brought the event back to the community.



“I think they’re going to bring a lot more tourism back into the city, which then has a flow-on effect for all of the businesses, so it’ll be well worth it down the track,” Cr Crowther said.

The Mount Isa Rodeo has been running since 1959, originally by local Rotary clubs and later by Isa Rodeo Ltd, which went into administration in late 2024.

A new entity – Mount Isa Pro Rodeo Ltd – was formed by local community members earlier this year to manage and run the iconic annual event.

Ph: (07) 4747 3200

(24 hours)

Email: [city@](mailto:city@mountisa.qld.gov.au)

[mountisa.qld.gov.au](http://mountisa.qld.gov.au)

Facebook:

[MountIsaCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MountIsaCityCouncil)

Web: [www.](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au)

[mountisa.qld.gov.au](http://mountisa.qld.gov.au)

### News In Brief

- Councillor Kim Coghlan has been reappointed to the position of Mount Isa City Council Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months. The decision was made at Council’s March Ordinary Meeting. The reappointment took effect on April 5. Cr Coghlan was appointed on 5 April 2024, following Council’s March 2024 Ordinary Meeting where they also resolved to reconsider the holder of the position of Deputy Mayor at the March 2025 Ordinary Meeting. Cr Coghlan thanked people for their support. “I’ve had a good 12 months, and I think I can build on another 12 months. I’ve got 10 years of experience in Local Government, so I really want to improve our Council as a whole,” she said. Councillor Dan Ballard thanked Cr Coghlan for her efforts over the past 12 months. “Cr Coghlan has gone to great lengths to create an environment of openness and inclusion, and I have appreciated her generosity in arranging meetings between councillors and local stakeholders throughout the community,” Cr Ballard said.

- Council is committed to reducing landfill waste and moving towards a circular economy – where materials are reused, repaired, repurposed, and recycled to reduce environmental impact. We’re developing a Circular Economy and Waste Reduction Strategy, and we want to hear from you. Have your say and help shape the future of waste and recycling: <https://forms.office.com/r/Q5Jwwf1dFx>. Plus, by participating in this survey, you have a chance to win a \$50 gift card to buy local in Mount Isa.